

## Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

## § 822.10

surface coal mining and reclamation operation, and any other reasonably available spoil shall be used to backfill the area. Reasonably available spoil shall include spoil generated by the mining operation and other spoil located in the permit area that is accessible and available for use and that when rehandled will not cause a hazard to the public safety or significant damage to the environment. For this purpose, the permit area shall include spoil in the immediate vicinity of the auger mining operation.

(3) The coal seam mined shall be covered with a minimum of 4 feet of nonacid-, nontoxic-forming material and the backfill graded to a slope which is compatible with the approved postmining land use and which provides adequate drainage and long-term stability.

(4) Any remnant of the highwall shall be stable and not pose a hazard to the public health and safety or to the environment.

(5) Spoil placed on the outslope during previous mining operations shall not be disturbed if such disturbances will cause instability of the remaining spoil or otherwise increase the hazard to the public health and safety or to the environment.

### § 819.21 Auger mining: Protection of underground mining.

Auger holes shall not extend closer than 500 feet (measured horizontally) to any abandoned or active underground mine workings, except as approved in accordance with § 816.79 of this chapter.

## PART 820—SPECIAL PERMANENT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS—ANTHRACITE MINES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Sec.

820.1 Scope.

820.2 Objective.

820.11 Performance standards: Anthracite mines in Pennsylvania.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 102, 201, 501, 503, 504, 529, Pub. L. 95-97, 91 Stat. 448, 449, 467, 470, 471, 514 (30 U.S.C. 1202, 1211, 1251, 1253, 1254, 1279).

### § 820.1 Scope.

This part sets forth environmental protection performance standards for anthracite surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Pennsylvania.

[44 FR 15449, Mar. 13, 1979]

### § 820.2 Objective.

This part implements subsection 529(a) of the Act, which requires the Secretary to adopt special performance standards for anthracite mines regulated by special environmental protection performance standards of a State as of the date of enactment of the Act.

[44 FR 15449, Mar. 13, 1979]

### § 820.11 Performance standards: Anthracite mines in Pennsylvania.

Anthracite mines in Pennsylvania, as specified in section 529 of the Act, shall comply with its approved State program, including Commonwealth of Pennsylvania statutes and regulations, and revisions thereto that are approved by OSM pursuant to part 732 of this chapter.

[47 FR 44943, Oct. 12, 1982]

## PART 822—SPECIAL PERMANENT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS—OPERATIONS IN ALLUVIAL VALLEY FLOORS

Sec.

822.1 Scope.

822.10 Information collection.

822.11 Essential hydrologic functions.

822.12 Protection of agricultural activities.

822.13 Monitoring.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 95-87, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 48 FR 29822, June 28, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

### § 822.1 Scope.

This part sets forth additional requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on or which affect alluvial valley floors in the arid and semiarid regions of the country.

### § 822.10 Information collection.

The information collection requirements contained in § 822.13 have been approved by the Office of Management

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and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3507 and assigned clearance number 1029-0049. The information is being collected to meet the requirements of sections 510(b)(5) and 515(b)(10)(F) of the Act which provide the information collection requirements and performance standards for alluvial valley floors. This information will be used to enable the regulatory authority to assess the impact of the proposed operation during the permanent regulatory program. The obligation to respond is mandatory.

### § 822.11 Essential hydrologic functions.

(a) The operator of a surface coal mining and reclamation operation shall minimize disturbances to the hydrologic balance by preserving throughout the mining and reclamation process the essential hydrologic functions of an alluvial valley floor not within the permit area.

(b) The operator of a surface coal mining and reclamation operation shall minimize disturbances to the hydrologic balance within the permit area by reestablishing throughout the mining and reclamation process the essential hydrologic functions of alluvial valley floors.

### § 822.12 Protection of agricultural activities.

(a) *Prohibitions.* Surface coal mining and reclamation operations shall not: (1) Interrupt, discontinue, or preclude farming on alluvial valley floors; or (2) cause material damage to the quantity or quality of water in surface or underground water systems that supply alluvial valley floors.

(b) *Statutory exclusions.* The prohibitions of paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply—

(1) Where the premining land use of an alluvial valley floor is undeveloped rangeland which is not significant to farming;

(2) Where farming on the alluvial valley floor that would be affected by the surface coal mining operation is of such small acreage as to be of negligible impact on the farm's agricultural production;

(3) To any surface coal mining and reclamation operation that, in the year preceding August 3, 1977—

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(i) Produced coal in commercial quantities and was located within or adjacent to an alluvial valley floor; or

(ii) Obtained specific permit approval by the State regulatory authority to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations within an alluvial valley floor; or

(4) To any land that is the subject of an application for renewal or revision of a permit issued pursuant to the Act which is an extension of the original permit, insofar as: (i) The land was previously identified in a reclamation plan submitted under either part 780 or 784 of this chapter, and (ii) the original permit area was excluded from the protection of paragraph (a) of this section for a reason set forth in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

### § 822.13 Monitoring.

(a) A monitoring system shall be installed, maintained, and operated by the permittee on all alluvial valley floors during surface coal mining and reclamation operations and continued until all bonds are released in accordance with Subchapter J of this chapter. The monitoring system shall provide sufficient information to allow the regulatory authority to determine that—

(1) The essential hydrologic functions of alluvial valley floors are being preserved outside the permit area or reestablished within the permit area throughout the mining and reclamation process in accordance with § 822.11;

(2) Farming on lands protected under § 822.12 is not being interrupted, discontinued, or precluded; and

(3) The operation is not causing material damage to the quantity or quality of water in the surface or underground systems that supply alluvial valley floors protected under § 822.12.

(b) Monitoring shall be conducted at adequate frequencies to indicate long-term trends that could affect compliance with §§ 822.11 and 822.12.

(c) All monitoring data collected and analyses thereof shall routinely be made available to the regulatory authority.

**PART 823—SPECIAL PERMANENT  
PROGRAM PERFORMANCE  
STANDARDS—OPERATIONS ON  
PRIME FARMLAND**

Sec.

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- 823.15 Revegetation and restoration of soil productivity.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 95-87, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 100-34.

SOURCE: 48 FR 21463, May 12, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 823.1 Scope and purpose.**

This part sets forth special environmental protection performance, reclamation, and design standards for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on prime farmland.

**§ 823.4 Responsibilities.**

(a) The U.S. Soil Conservation Service within each State shall establish specifications for prime farmland soil removal, storage, replacement, and reconstruction.

(b) The regulatory authority within each State shall use the soil-reconstruction specifications of paragraph (a) of this section to carry out its responsibilities under § 785.17 and subchapter J of this chapter.

**§ 823.11 Applicability.**

The requirements of this part shall not apply to—

(a) Coal preparation plants, support facilities, and roads of surface and underground mines that are actively used over extended periods of time and where such uses affect a minimal amount of land. Such uses shall meet the requirements of part 816 of this chapter for surface mining activities and of part 817 of this chapter for underground mining activities;

(b) Disposal areas containing coal mine waste resulting from underground mines that is not technologically and economically feasible to store in underground mines or on non-prime farmland. The operator shall minimize the area of prime farmland used for such purposes.

(c) Prime farmland that has been excluded in accordance with § 785.17(a) of this chapter.

[48 FR 21463, May 12, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 40839, Oct. 18, 1988]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 50 FR 7278, Feb. 21, 1985, § 823.11, paragraph (a) was suspended “insofar as it excludes from the requirements of part 823 those coal preparation plants, support facilities, and roads that are surface mining activities”.

**§ 823.12 Soil removal and stockpiling.**

(a) Prime farmland soils shall be removed from the areas to be disturbed before drilling, blasting, or mining.

(b) The minimum depth of soil and soil materials to be removed and stored for use in the reconstruction of prime farmland shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of § 823.14(b).

(c) Soil removal and stockpiling operations on prime farmland shall be conducted to—

(1) Separately remove the topsoil, or remove other suitable soil materials where such other soil materials will create a final soil having a greater productive capacity than that which exist prior to mining. If not utilized immediately, this material shall be placed in stockpiles separate from the spoil and all other excavated materials; and

(2) Separately remove the B or C soil horizon or other suitable soil material to provide the thickness of suitable soil required by § 823.14(b), except as approved by the regulatory authority where the B or C soil horizons would not otherwise be removed and where soil capabilities can be retained. If not utilized immediately, each horizon or other material shall be stockpiled separately from the spoil and all other excavated materials. Where combinations of such soil materials created by mixing have been shown to be equally or more favorable for plant growth than the B horizon, separate handling is not necessary.

(d) Stockpiles shall be placed within the permit area where they will not be disturbed or be subject to excessive erosion. If left in place for more than 30 days, stockpiles shall meet the requirements of § 816.22 or § 817.22 of this chapter.

[48 FR 21463, May 12, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 40839, Oct. 18, 1988]